

# **EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

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### **REMARKS BY**

## **U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN GLOBAL COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGY IN SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL WORKSHOP**

**DHAKA  
MAY 16, 2012**

The Honorable Minister of Home Affairs Advocate Shahara Khatun

The Honorable UNDP Resident Coordinator Mr. Neal Walker

Officer-in-Charge, Counterterrorism Implementation Task Force Mr. Md. Rafiuddin

Shah

Honored guests from the region and ladies and gentlemen

No nation is immune to the horrors of terrorism.

No nation, no matter how big or powerful, can single-handedly defeat terrorism.

We who gather today here in Dhaka seek to work together, to work collectively to ensure that the future that our children and grandchildren inherit from us is one of peace, security, tolerance, prosperity ... a future marked by freedom, respect for human rights, and circumstances that allow each individual to achieve his or her own potential.

We gather here today in this workshop to exchange ideas, views, experiences on how best to forge a collective strategy to defeat those who seek to impose on the world a future filled with hate, intolerance, violence and extremist ideologies.

Working together we can ensure that the future belongs not to the hate mongers and terrorists, but rather to those who believe in freedom, peace, tolerance and democracy.

Bangladesh is the perfect venue for this meeting as Bangladesh has demonstrated clearly how effective partnership with neighbors and friends can turn the tide against terrorism. Bangladesh has made great progress in digging out the violent extremism that had

begun to take root in this country a decade ago. As Secretary Clinton made clear during her visit to Bangladesh earlier this month, America is pleased to be Bangladesh's partner in the struggle against violent extremism.

The United Nations, too, plays an important role in promoting counterterrorism cooperation and collaboration in South Asia. This workshop is only the latest of a series of UN initiatives to foster dialogue among stakeholders from across the region. America supports the UN strategy to defeat terrorism.

We believe that to defeat terrorism we must address the grievances and local conditions that terrorists seek to exploit. Working together, we must strive even harder to foster good governance, reduce poverty and corruption, improve education and address basic human needs.

We believe that to defeat terrorism the legal system and law enforcement agencies must be effective in safeguarding the populace while respecting each citizen's rights and property. Working together, we must build the capacity of state institutions so they can better fulfill their critical roles in democracy.

We believe that to defeat terrorism it is essential that state institutions respect basic international human rights norms, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law. Our partnership with Bangladesh – as with many other countries around the world – is founded on the core beliefs that I have just enumerated. I am pleased to report that our partnership with Bangladesh continues to yield important results in making Bangladesh an ever more hostile environment for those who advocate violent extremism.

Of course, the United Nations and its Counterterrorism Implementation Task Force are critical to the success of the world's democracies in countering violent extremism. I wish to thank the United Nations for organizing this important workshop. I wish, too, to thank the Government of Bangladesh for hosting the workshop. As I noted earlier, Bangladesh is yet again showing the way in confronting the scourge of terrorism. I am proud that America, too, is sponsoring and supporting this multilateral and regional endeavor.

Attending workshops in itself does little to advance the cause of combating terrorism. More important is what you do after the workshop is over and you return home. I fervently hope that the ideas and insights, the inspiration and motivation that you take from this

workshop will serve you well after your return home as you endeavor to forge new paths of cooperation and collaboration with other countries of the region to increase the effectiveness of all in countering our shared enemy: violent extremism.

America, for its part, will continue to bolster regional and country-specific capacity for countering terrorism. I am pleased that so much progress has already been made in developing and strengthening the international architecture for confronting terrorism. But more needs to be done. Be assured that America will be there to partner with you.

I wish each of you the very best as you participate in this workshop and after your return home, when you will endeavor to put to work the fresh ideas and new contacts that emerge from this workshop.

I know that working together we will succeed in putting an end to the senseless death and destruction perpetrated by violent extremists.

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**\*Prepared for delivery\***

**GR/ 2012**